What Is Claimed:

1) A method for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising the steps of:

    a) receiving a phone address entered by a caller;

    b) determining the entry modality used by said caller to enter the received phone address;

    c) decoding said received phone address according to the determined entry modality;

    d) consulting a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table; and

    e) connecting the caller to the telephone number that results from said step of consulting the reference table.

2) The method of claim 1, wherein the decoded phone address is an ambiguous phone address.

3) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of consulting the reference table further includes consulting said table using additional information specified by an ambiguity resolving parameter, and wherein said step of connecting the caller is not performed if no telephone number results from said step of consulting.

4) The method of claim 1 wherein said reference table is a lookup table.

616444 v1

1   5) The method of claim 1 wherein said reference table is a database.

1   6) A system for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising:

2   a memory having program code stored therein; and

3   a processor connected to said memory for carrying out instructions in

4   accordance with stored program code;

5   wherein said program code, when executed by said processor, causes said

6   processor to perform the steps of:

7   a) receiving a phone address entered by a caller;

8   b) determining the entry modality used by said caller to enter the received phone

9   address;

10   c) decoding said received phone address according to the determined entry

11   modality;

12   d) consulting a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference

13   table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table; and

14   e) connecting the caller to the telephone number that results from said step of

15   consulting the reference table.

1   7) The system of claim 6, wherein the decoded phone address is an ambiguous

2   phone address

1   8) The system of claim 7 wherein said step of consulting the reference table

2   further includes consulting said table using additional information specified by an ambiguity

3   resolving parameter, and wherein said step of connecting the caller is not performed if no

4   telephone number results from said step of consulting.

1   9) The system of claim 6 wherein said reference table is a lookup table.

1   10) The system of claim 6 wherein said reference table is a database.

1   11) A method for determining telephone numbers, comprising the steps of:

2   a) receiving from a caller an ambiguous phone address;

3   b) collecting the additional information specified by an ambiguity

4   resolving parameter; and

5   c) determining, using said additional information, whether said phone

6   address resolves to a telephone number.

1   12) A system for determining telephone numbers, comprising:

2   a memory having program code stored therein; and

3   a processor connected to said memory for carrying out instructions in

4   accordance with stored program code;

5   wherein said program code, when executed by said processor, causes said

6   processor to perform the steps of:

7   a) receiving from a caller an ambiguous phone address;

8   b) collecting the additional information specified by an ambiguity

9   resolving parameter; and

10

11   address resolves to a telephone number.

c) determining, using said additional information, whether said phone

1   13) The method of claim 11, further including the step of:

2   connecting said caller to the telephone number which said phone address resolves

3   to.

1   14) The system of claim 12, further including the step of:

2   connecting said caller to the telephone number which said phone address resolves

3   to.

1   15) The method of claim 11, wherein said ambiguous phone address maps to a

2   single telephone number.

1   16) The method of claim 11, wherein said ambiguous phone address maps to

2   more than one telephone number.

1   17) The system of claim 12, wherein said ambiguous phone address maps to a

2   single telephone number.

1   18) The system of claim 12, wherein said ambiguous phone address maps to

2   more than one telephone number.

616444 v1

1   19) The system of claim 6, integrated into a central office.

1   20) The system of claim 6, integrated into a central controller.

1   21) The system of claim 6, integrated into a unit which interfaces between a

2   telephone subscriber's telephone units and the subscriber's connection to a telephone network.

1   22) The method of claim 11, wherein said additional information is the caller's

2   present location.

1   23) The method of claim 11, wherein said additional information is the telephone

2   number the call is being placed from.

1   24) The method of claim 11, wherein said additional information is the identity of

2   the caller.

1   25) The method of claim 11, wherein said additional information is the caller's

2   response to one or more queries.

1   26) The system of claim 12, wherein said additional information is the caller's

2   present location.

1   27) The system of claim 12, wherein said additional information is the telephone

2   number the call is being placed from.

1   28) The system of claim 12, wherein said additional information is the identity of

2   the caller.

1   29) The system of claim 12, wherein said additional information is the caller's

2   response to one or more queries.

1   30) A method for determining a telephone number, comprising the steps of:

2   a) receiving a phone address; and

3   b) determining a telephone number correlated with the received phone address.

1   31) A system for determining a telephone number, comprising:

2   a memory having program code stored therein; and

3   a processor connected to said memory for carrying out instructions in

4   accordance with stored program code;

5   wherein said program code, when executed by said processor, causes said

6   processor to perform the steps of:

7   a) receiving a phone address; and

8   b) determining a telephone number correlated with the received phone address.